

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-04

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /005 R

66617

DRAFTED BY: AF/W:HKWALKER

APPROVED BY: AF/W - MR. LOUGHRAN

AF/W:ARMCKEE

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R 031950Z MAY 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LAGOS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 091313

FOLLOWING REPEAT MONROVIA 2305 SENT SECSTATE DATED APR 22.

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONROVIA 2305

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, LI CU

SUBJECT: LIBERIA AND CUBA ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS

1. LIBERIAN RADIO AS BROADCAST STATEMENT TO EFFECT THAT LIBERIA HAD AGREED TO ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS AT AMBASSADORIAL LEVEL. STATEMENT NOTES AGREEMENT WAS CONCLUDED IN NY CITY 'OVER WEEK' AND WAS SIGNED BY LIBERIAN FONMIN DENNIS AND CUBAN PRIME MINISTER. NO DATE GIVEN FOR EXCHANGE OF MISSION OR REPRESENTATIVES.

2. SO AR WE HAVE HEARD NO LOCAL COMMENT ON DECISION WHICH WILL LIKELY RAISE SOME EYEBROWS. AE ASSUME DECISION WAS BASED ENTIRELY ON TOLBERT'S CONTINUING DESIRE GAIN SUPPORT IN THIRD WORLD; WE CAN THINK OF NO OTHER REASON AND DOUBT VERY MUCH THERE WILL BE EXCHANGE OF MISSIONS FOR SOME TIME TO COME.

3. NEVERTHELESS, THIS STRIKES US FAR MORE SIGNIFICANT MOVE THAN ANY TAKEN BY TOLBERT SO FAR IN FIELD OF FOREIGN RELATIONS. HIS
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STEPS AT NORMALIZATION WHICH EASTERN EUROPE, HIS NEGOTIATING

WITH PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF CHINA AND EVEN NORTH KOREA; HIS INVOLVEMENT
IN SOUTH EAST ASIAN PROBLEMS ALL SEEM TO US TO
HAVE SOME, ALBEIT ONLY SOME, RELEVANCE. BUT CUBA*?

3. WE WILL ATTEMPT ASCERTAIN GRATER LOCAL FEELING FOR MOVE
AND WILL PROVIDE FURTHER COMMENT.
BEAN UNQUOTE RUSH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS ESTABLISHMENT, AMBASSADORS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE091313
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: AF/W:HKWALKER
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740107-0970
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740575/aaaacpkm.tel
Line Count: 68
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 AUG 2002 by rowelle0>; APPROVED <13 JAN 2003 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LIBERIA AND CUBA ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS
TAGS: PFOR, LI, CU
To: LAGOS
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005